

[Submitting Counsel on Signature Page]

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: SOCIAL MEDIA ADOLESCENT
ADDICTION/PERSONAL INJURY
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

Case No. 4:22-MD-03047-YGR

MDL No. 3047

This Document Relates to:

ALL PERSONAL INJURY ACTIONS

~~PROPOSED~~ REVISED SECOND
AMENDED STIPULATED
IMPLEMENTATION ORDER
GOVERNING ADOPTION OF MASTER
COMPLAINT (PERSONAL INJURY) AND
SHORT-FORM COMPLAINTS FOR
FILED CASES

I. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE OF ORDER

This Implementation Order (“Order”) applies only to Plaintiffs who have asserted or seek to assert personal injury claims related to the use of one or more of Defendants’ social media apps¹ (“Personal Injury Plaintiffs”) consistent with the scope of the October 11, 2022 Transfer Order initiating these MDL proceedings.² No personal injury claims may be asserted in current or future filed cases in this MDL other than pursuant to the terms of this Order. This Order applies to cases directly filed in this MDL and those transferred, removed, or otherwise assigned to this proceeding

¹ Plaintiffs allege in the Second Amended Master Complaint and their proposed Short Form Complaint that the social media apps are “products.” Nothing in this Case Management Order or in the template Short Form Complaint shall be construed as an admission by any Defendant that their social media platform(s) are products for purposes of any claim asserted by any Plaintiff.

² This Order does not apply to government entity cases.

(collectively, “this MDL proceeding”). This Order is binding on all Parties and their counsel in all such cases. This Order is not intended to alter the applicable provisions of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the Local Rules of this Court, except as specified herein or in any subsequent Pretrial Order. Defendants preserve all defenses, including jurisdictional and venue challenges, to any claims brought in this MDL pursuant to this Order.

II. MASTER PLEADINGS

A. MASTER COMPLAINT (PERSONAL INJURY)

1. **Timing.** Pursuant to Case Management Order No. 7 (“CMO-7”),³ the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee (PSC) filed a *Second Amended Master Complaint (Personal Injury)* (“*Master Complaint*”) on December 15, 2023.⁴

2. **Effect of *Master Complaint*.** All claims pleaded in the *Master Complaint* will supersede and replace all claims for personal injury in any action pending in this MDL. In accordance with CMO-7, individual plaintiffs who wished to maintain the causes of action withdrawn in the *Master Complaint* filed amended Short-Form Complaints re-asserting those counts (and any supporting allegations) on Tuesday, **January 2, 2024**. If an amended Short-Form Complaint was not filed, individual plaintiffs were deemed to stand on their earlier filed individual Short-Form Complaints, which are deemed amended to conform with the *Master Complaint*.⁵ Nothing in this Order shall preclude the PSC from seeking leave to amend the *Master Complaint* as provided in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or preclude any Defendant from opposing such leave.

B. SHORT-FORM COMPLAINT

1. Attached as **Exhibit A** to this Order is a template form *Short-Form Complaint* (“SFC”) for use by personal injury Plaintiffs in current and future-filed personal injury cases in this MDL.

³ Dkt. 479.

⁴ Dkt. 494.

⁵ Dkt. 479, at 2.

2. The SFC is an abbreviated form that each individual Plaintiff will complete, indicating their individual claims, the Defendants against whom they are bringing those claims, and adopting the applicable factual allegations set forth in the *Master Complaint* as the basis for those individual claims. Each Plaintiff who claims injury arising from their own use of Defendants' platforms shall file a separate SFC setting forth their individual claims and injury. Plaintiffs asserting loss of consortium claims as permitted by law; parents or guardians of a minor Plaintiff as permitted by law; and in the event of a wrongful death action, the appropriate heirs or representative(s) of the Estate may state their claims on the same SFC as the individual Plaintiff whose use of Defendants' platforms gives rise to their claims. By this process, all allegations applicable to the specific Defendants named in the SFC that are set forth in the *Master Complaint* shall be deemed pleaded against those Defendants.

3. For each such personal injury action, the *Master Complaint* (and any subsequent amendments) and the SFC (and any subsequent amendments) shall be deemed the Plaintiff's operative Complaint.

4. Each SFC filed in this MDL proceeding shall indicate the federal district where the individual Plaintiff(s) originally filed or would have originally filed their Complaint.

5. The procedures for filing the *Master Complaint* and the SFC do not reflect that the Defendants have agreed to or admitted the allegations set forth in those pleadings, nor have the Defendants conceded or waived their right to dispute the legal validity of the claims alleged therein.

C. TIMING AND EFFECT OF FILING SHORT FORM COMPLAINTS

1. All Personal Injury Complaints

a. **Direct Filed cases:** All Personal Injury Plaintiffs must file their SFCs electronically in this MDL. The Court refers Plaintiffs' counsel to Case Management Order No. 4 – Direct Filing Order (“CMO-4”),⁶ which is incorporated herein and should be reviewed and followed. For purposes of statutes of limitations and statutes of repose, any such Plaintiff shall be deemed to have filed their Complaint as of the date they filed their Short Form Complaint and not

⁶ Dkt. 119.

the date of any master complaint, except that, for any Plaintiff who filed a Personal Injury Complaint in this MDL pursuant to CMO-4 before March 8, 2023 (the date the original version of this Order was entered), the date on which they filed such Complaint shall be the relevant date.

b. **Transferred cases:** Any Plaintiff whose case becomes part of this MDL after March 8, 2023 (the date of filing of the original version of this Order (Dkt. 177)) by transfer from another district or from another judge in this district must file a SFC within 20 days from the date of transfer or, if originally filed in this district, from the date of assignment to this Court. For purposes of statutes of limitations and statutes of repose, any such Plaintiff shall be deemed to have filed their Complaint as of the date they filed their original Complaint in a different judicial district or in this district and not the date of any master complaint or the date they filed their Short Form Complaint. For purposes of statutes of limitations and statutes of repose, any Plaintiff whose case became part of this MDL before March 8, 2023, shall be deemed to have filed their complaint as of the date they filed their original complaint, and not the date of any master complaint or the date they filed the SFC. Nothing in this Order or the filing of a SFC shall be construed as a prior dismissal or amendment of a prior complaint, but the prior complaint shall no longer be deemed the operative complaint.

2. **No Multi-Plaintiff Personal Injury Complaints.** Each Plaintiff must have an individual complaint on file. Any Plaintiff who asserts personal injury claims in a multi-plaintiff complaint that is pending or that is subsequently transferred to this MDL must file an individual SFC 20 days from the date that the Court posts the applicable Transfer Order on its docket. This provision does not apply to Personal Injury Plaintiffs asserting loss of consortium claims as permitted by law; parents or guardians of a minor Plaintiff as permitted by law; and in the event of a wrongful death action, the appropriate heirs or representative(s) of the Estate.

III. RESPONSE TO MASTER COMPLAINT AND SHORT-FORM COMPLAINTS

To eliminate potential delays and to promote judicial efficiency with respect to the administration of this MDL proceeding, all SFCs filed in this MDL proceeding are deemed answered and denied, without waiver of any defense or right to move to dismiss, and with full

1 preservation of all arguments and defenses that may be raised in any responsive pleading that may
2 be required by future order of the Court or motion to dismiss.

3 **IV. SERVICE OF PROCESS**

4 **A. SERVICE OF PROCESS OF NEWLY NAMED DEFENDANTS**

5 1. Plaintiffs may file an action against any Defendant not named in the current
6 *Master Complaint* (“*Newly Named Defendants*”) directly in the MDL by using the SFC⁷ and the
7 *Master Complaint* which is deemed adopted into any filed SFC.

8 2. By this Order, Plaintiffs who name any “*Newly Named Defendant*” in their
9 SFC may effectuate service of process on each “*Newly Named Defendant*” by serving the following
10 upon each *Newly Named Defendant* named in the SFC, in accordance with Rule 4 of the Federal
11 Rules of Civil Procedure:

- 12 a. a copy of the *Master Complaint*;
- 13 b. the SFC;
- 14 c. a copy of this Order, and,
- 15 d. a Summons.

16 3. To the extent Plaintiffs name Meta Platforms Technologies, LLC, Meta
17 Payments, Inc., or Whatsapp Inc. as *Newly Named Defendants*, the entities agree to waive formal
18 service of summons pursuant to Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Service shall be
19 effectuated pursuant to the Section IV.B of this Order.

20 4. The right of Defendants and “*Newly Named Defendants*” to challenge
21 jurisdiction and venue are hereby preserved and explicitly not waived by Plaintiffs’ direct filing of
22 SFCs.

23 **B. SERVICE OF PROCESS WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANTS NAMED IN** 24 **THE CURRENT MASTER COMPLAINT**

25 1. CMO-4, Section II (G) is amended as follows: For SFCs that are properly
26 filed in this MDL, the Defendants Meta Platforms, Inc., *formerly known as Facebook Inc.*;
27 Instagram, LLC; Facebook Operations, LLC; Facebook Payments, Inc.; Siculus, Inc.; Meta

28 ⁷ See Section II.B of the SFC.

1 Platforms Technologies, LLC; Meta Payments, Inc.; Whatsapp Inc.; Snap Inc.; ByteDance, Inc.;
2 TikTok, Inc; ByteDance Ltd.; TikTok Ltd.; TikTok LLC; YouTube, LLC; and Google LLC agree
3 to waive formal service of summons pursuant to Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
4 Please note that a Plaintiff that is serving a SFC, Summons, and Civil Cover Sheet is **not** required
5 to serve a copy of the *Master Complaint* upon the currently named Defendants.

6 2. MDL Centrality will provide a mechanism for Plaintiffs to upload and serve
7 copies of the Complaint, Summons, and Civil Cover Sheet that were Electronically Filed with the
8 Court on Defendants. MDL Centrality is accessible at www.mdlcentrality.com/socialmedia. Each
9 Plaintiff, through counsel or *pro se*, may obtain authorized usernames and secure login passwords
10 to permit the use of MDL Centrality by emailing socialmedia@browngreer.com.

11 3. Absent a technical failure, Plaintiffs must upload the file-stamped version of
12 the SFC and a fillable PDF version of the SFC to MDL Centrality on the same day that the SFC is
13 filed with the Court. Service on Defendants shall be deemed to occur when the submitting party
14 has received the MDL Centrality confirmation report that the materials have been successfully
15 submitted to Defendants.

16 4. For any Short Form Complaint filed ***on or before*** the date of this Order, a
17 file-stamped copy of the Short Form Complaint must be uploaded to MDL Centrality within
18 fourteen (14) days of the date of this Order. Additionally, if counsel possesses a fillable PDF
19 version of any previously filed Short Form Complaint, the fillable PDF version must also be
20 uploaded to MDL Centrality by this date.

21 5. Plaintiffs shall make proof of electronic service to the Court as required by
22 Rule 4(l)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiffs may use the MDL Centrality report
23 to demonstrate proof of service.

24 6. In the event a Plaintiff intends to name a Defendant not listed above, the
25 Plaintiff must serve the unlisted Defendant by the methods of service prescribed by the Federal
26 Rules of Civil Procedure.

27 7. For all SFCs filed in, removed to, or transferred to this MDL: (i) all requests
28 for issuance of summons shall be made in the underlying constituent case, and not through the

MDL Master Docket File; (ii) all proofs of service shall be filed only in the underlying constituent case and not in the MDL Master Docket File. Acceptance of electronic service shall not constitute a waiver of any defense.

DATED: February 5, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lexi J. Hazam

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1 **PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

2
3 Dated: **February 20, 2024**

4 
5 YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

ATTESTATION

I, Lexi J. Hazam, hereby attest, pursuant to N.D. Cal. Civil L.R. 5-1, that the concurrence to the filing of this document has been obtained from each signatory hereto.

DATED: February 5, 2024

/s/Lexi J. Hazam

Lexi J. Hazam